

Application No.: 10/578,626
Amendment under 37 CFR 1.111
Reply to Office Action dated August 22, 2008
November 20, 2008

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same numbers respectively:

Claim 1 (Currently amended): An aqueous solution of a chromium salt, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ an oxalic acid content is 8% by weight or less relative to chromium,

wherein the chromium salt is a chromium chloride, and
wherein the aqueous solution contains a basic chromium
chloride represented by the composition formula $\text{Cr}(\text{OH})_x\text{Cl}_y$
(wherein $0 < x \leq 2$, $1 \leq y < 3$, and $x + y = 3$).

Claims 2-4 (Cancelled):

Claim 5 (Currently amended): The aqueous solution of the chromium salt according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a specific gravity at 20°C is 1.35 to 1.44, and ~~[[the]]~~ a molar ratio (Cl/Cr) of chlorine to chromium is 1 or more and less than 3.

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Claim 6 (Currently amended): The aqueous solution of the chromium salt according to claim ~~[[4]]~~ 1, wherein ~~[[the]]~~ a concentration in terms of Cr is 8.2% to 14% by weight.

Claims 7-23 (Cancelled):